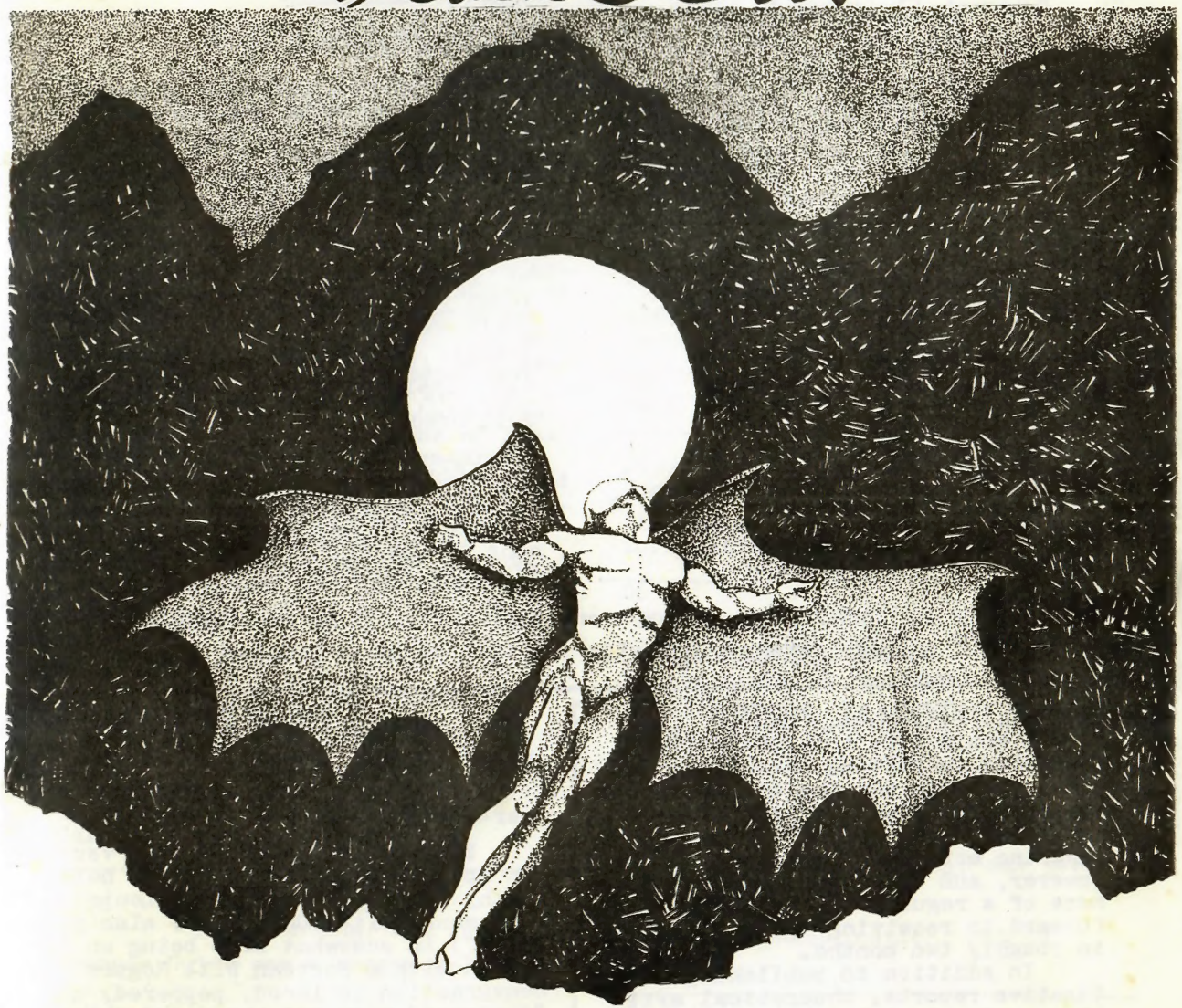
ANOMALY RESEARCH BULLETIN



NUMBER 7 50 CENTS

—A JOURNAL OF FORTEAN DATA, THEORY, AND THOUGHT—

ARB

Anomaly Research Bulletin

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EDITORIAL NOTES

I would like to appologize for the delay in getting this issue of ARB out. This was due to several personal problems, as well as the fact that I was working on several magazine articles. From now on, however, ARB will be published on more of a regular schedule. Look forward to receiving the next issue in roughly two months.

In addition to publishing investigative reports, theoretical articles, and material of a similar nature, I would like ARB to become a bi-monthly register of Forteana. I would like to see a portion of each issue set aside for this feature, which would consist of a listing of reports in narrative form, a map showing the distribution of re-

Cont. on p. 15...

LETTERS

AN OPEN LETTER TO ARB's EDITOR:

Dear Dave,

Being on the scene at the Vestigian spook light site with such noteworthy characters as Dr. C. Louis Wiedemann (alias Uncle Lou; also alias "Unc.") is somewhat like being on location with a Fortean Will Rogers. The conversation is laced, peppered, and "doctored" with metaphors and whimsical (and not so whimsical) folkish philosophy. (Lou, of course, might never admit to this, but then he's obviously a modest soul.)

The weekend of June 11-12 was as interesting as I'd hoped it might be

(Continued on page 13...)

PHANTOM KANGAROOS:

A Catalogue & Analysis of Reports

BY LOREN COLEMAN AND DAVID FIDELER

A SHORT INTRODUCTION.

Mystery kangaroos, certainly one of the stranger types of Fortean phenomena, have been with us since the turn of the century...and possibly much, much longer. Whether the marsupials are teleporting animals, manifestations of one Super Phenomenon, or something else entirely, remains an open question. In any event, the animals are anything but normal, and deserve to be seriously studied. To meet this end, the authors have compiled the following catalogue of mystery kangaroo reports. A feature-length magazine article on the subject has recently been completed, and readers will be notified as to where and when this will be published, as soon as this information becomes available.

THE CATALOGUE.

01
1899--June 12 Monday
----- New Richmond, Wisconsin

A woman saw a kangaroo run through a neighbor's backyard.

(My Father Owned a Circus, by Robert H. Gollmar, Caxton Printers Ltd., Caldwell, Idaho, 1965.)

02
1900 -----
----- Mays Landing, New Jersey

Armanda Sutts saw a kangaroo-like animal.

(Trenton, New Jersey Evening Times, Nov. 4, 1960.)

03
1949--January -----
----- Grove City, Ohio

Mr. Louis Staub saw a 5½ foot tall kangaroo-like animal while driving a Greyhound bus.

(Cincinnati, Ohio Post, January 10, 1949; CR: Ron Schaffner.)

04
1957 -----
----- Coon Rapids, Minnesota

Two boys saw a five foot tall kangaroo.

(Letter from Mrs. Barbara Battmar to Loren Coleman, April 21, 1973.)

05
1958 -----
----- Coon Rapids, Minnesota

Linda Brodie saw a kangaroo in the Coon Rapids area.

(Letter from Mrs. Barbara Battmar to Loren Coleman, May 1, 1973.)

06
Approximately 1958 -----
----- Coon Rapids, Minnesota

Two boys saw "a Big Rabbit" hopping around.

(Same source as case 05, above.)

07
1967--April 24 Monday
----- Coon Rapids, Minnesota

Mr. and Mrs. Willard Hays saw two kangaroos.

(Personal communication, May 19, 73.)

08
1968--May 31 Friday
2:30 AM Monroe, Ohio

A motorist and patrolman saw a kangaroo.

(Cincinnati, Ohio Enquirer, June 1, 1968.)

09
1968--August 3 Saturday
----- Lansing, Michigan

A kangaroo sighting was reported to the police.

(Lansing, Michigan State Journal, August 3, 1968.)

10
1971--July -----
----- Evanston, Illinois

A kangaroo was seen by a Northwestern University campus policeman.

(Chicago, Illinois News, October 26, 1974.)

11
1971--November 1 Monday
----- Near Abilene, Kansas

Mrs. Edward Johnson saw a kangaroo in the vicinity of her home.

(Wichita, Kansas Eagle, November 1971,)

12
1974--October 17 Thursday
----- Chicago, Illinois

A kangaroo was seen by an 11-year-old newspaper boy.

(Chicago, Illinois Daily News, October 19-20, 1974.)

13
1974--October 18 Friday
3:30 AM Chicago, Illinois

Two patrolmen trapped a kangaroo at the back of a fenced-in ally, but the animal got away.

(Numerous newspaper reports, October 18 & 19, 1974.)

14
1974--October 18 Friday
Evening Chicago, Illinois

A four and a half foot tall kangaroo was seen hopping around a park.

(Chicago, Illinois Sun-Times, October 19, 1974.)

15
1974--October 19 Saturday
7:00 AM Chicago, Illinois

A 13-year-old newspaper delivery boy saw a kangaroo standing a few feet away.

(Chicago, Illinois Tribune, October 20, 1974.)

16
1974--October 19 Saturday
8:00 AM Chicago, Illinois

A kangaroo was seen by two boys.

(Chicago, Illinois Sun-Times, October 20, 1974.)

17
1974--October 19 Saturday
6:00 PM Chicago, Illinois

An unidentified caller reported to police that he had seen a kangaroo.

(Chicago, Illinois Tribune, October 20, 1974.)

18
1974--October 20 Sunday
----- Chicago, Illinois

Several residents reported to police that a kangaroo was rummaging through garbage cans.

(AP wire release, October 21, 1974.)

19
1974--October 23 Wednesday
12:00 PM Chicago, Illinois

A kangaroo was seen in Chicago's Schiller Woods park.

(Chicago, Illinois News, October 24, 1977.)

20
1974--November 1 Friday
Night Plano, Illinois

An off-duty patrolman almost hit a kangaroo that leaped into the road. The creature was seen by another motorist also.

(UPI wire release, November 2, 1974.)

21
1974--November 2 Saturday
9:00 PM Plano, Illinois

Three 17-year-olds saw a kangaroo leap onto the road upon which they were driving.

(UPI wire release, November 3, 1974.)

22
1974--November 2 Saturday

10:00 PM Chicago, Illinois

Len Zeglicz and Kathy Battaglia were out for a wlak when they saw a kangaroo hop donw the street.

(Chicago, Illinois Sun-Times, November 4, 1974.)

23
1974--November 3 Sunday
"Early" Chicago, Illinois

Frank Kocherver saw a kangaroo near a forest preserve.

(AP wire release, November 5, 1974.)

24
1974--November 4 Monday
----- Millbrook, Illinois

A truck driver saw a kangaroo and a deer together in a field.

(AP wire release, November 5, 1974.)

25
1974--November 6 Wednesday
----- Lansing, Illinois

A truck driver was forced to swerve off the road to avoid hitting a kangaroo.

(Wall Street Journal, December 11, 1974.)

26
1974--November 12 Tuesday
Approximately 8:00 AM Rensellaer, Indiana

Alfred Henshel saw a kangaroo.

(Rennsselaer, Indiana Republican, November 12, 1974; UPI wire release, November 13, 1974.)

27
1974--November 12 Tuesday
12:00 PM Rensellaer, Indiana

Charles James saw what he thought was a kangaroo.

(Rensselaer, Indiana Republican, November 13, 1974.)

28
1974--November 12 Tuesday
5:00 PM Rensselaer, Indiana

Bill Babcock Sr. saw a kangaroo near his construction company office.

(Rensselear, Indiana Republican, November 13, 1974.)

29
1974--November 15 Friday
----- Chicago, Illinois

A passenger taking the train to work saw a kangaroo sitting in an empty lot.

(Chicago, Illinois Daily News, November 16-17, 1974.)

30
1974--November 17 Sunday
9:30 AM Carmel, Indiana

While driving to church, two couples riding in the same car saw a kangaroo. A kangaroo was also seen later that day by a woman living in the area.

(Numerous national newspapers, November 17 & 18, 1974.)

31
1974--November 25 Monday
----- Sheridan, Indiana

Donald Johnson saw a kangaroo while driving a pick up truck.

(Wall Street Journal, December 11, 1974.)

32
1975--July 14 Monday
7:00 AM Decatur, Illinois

Mrs. Rosemary Hopwood got a detailed look at a mystery kangaroo while driving along Illinois Route 128.

(Interview with Loren Coleman; Decatur, Illinois Herald and Review, July 14, 1975; and Chicago, Illinois, Daily News, July 16, 1975.)

33
1975--July 17 Thursday
----- Decatur, Illinois

A kangaroo was seen in approximately the same area where Rosemary Hopwood saw one three days earlier. The witnesses were unnamed.

(Rosemary Hopwood interviewed by Loren Coleman.)

34
1976--April 6 Tuesday
6:30 AM Rock Island, Illinois

Harry Masterson, his wife, and his mother-in-law all saw a kangaroo.

(Interview with Harry Masterson by Loren Coleman; Boston, Massachusets

Evening Globe, April 1976.

35
1976--May 6 Thursday
----- Rock Island, Illinois

A kangaroo was seen in Rock Island by an unnamed woman.

(Interview with Harry Masterson by Loren Coleman.)

36
1976--August 17 Tuesday
2:10 AM Golden, Colorado

A citizen's band radio operator saw a kangaroo. Five police were dispatched to the scene and one of the men spotted the animal near some clay pits.

(Denver, Colorado Post, August 17, 1976; Tulsa, Oklahoma World, August 18, 1976 -- see ARB 3.)

THE "STATISTICAL" DISTRIBUTION OF REPORTS.

NB: In both of the tables below, if two or more kangaroo sightings were made in one city or area during the course of one day, the two individual reports have been treated as one incident for statisitical purposes.

-

Table One/THE DISTRIBUTION OF NORTH AMERICAN KANGAROO REPORTS BY MONTH

January	X
February	-
March	-
April	XX
May	XX
June	X
July	XXX
August	XX
September	-
October	OOOOO
November	XOOOOOOOOOO
December	-
Month unknown	XXXX

Key for Table One: X One report
O One report from 1974.
- No reports for this month.

Table Two/THE DISTRIBUTION OF NORTH AMERICAN KANGAROO REPORTS BY DAY-OF-THE WEEK.

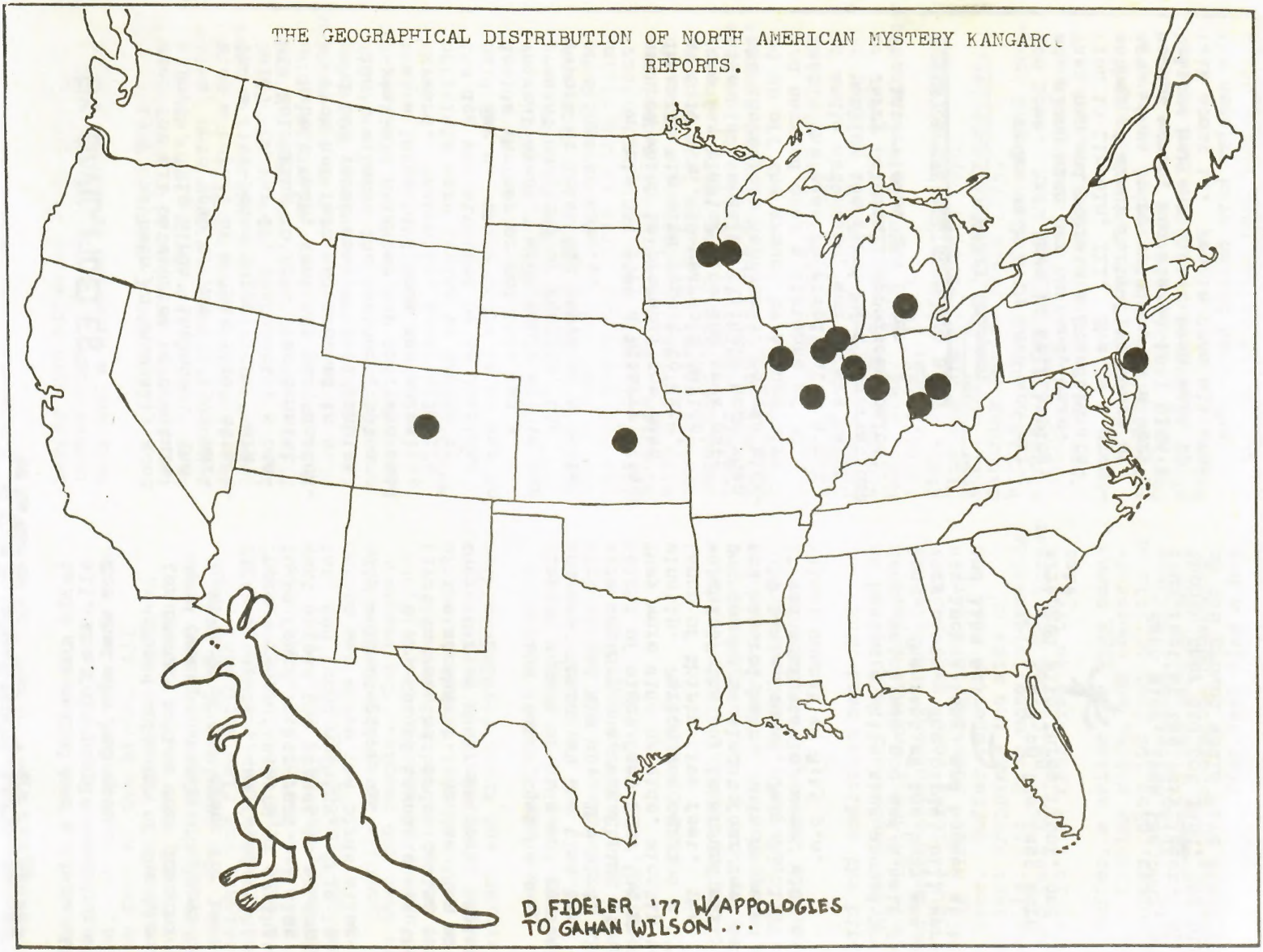
Monday	XXXXXX
Tuesday	XXX
Wednesday	XX
Thursday	XXX
Friday	XXXX
Saturday	XXX
Sunday	XXX
Day unknown	XXXXXX

-

...And, finally, the map on the opposite page shows THE GEOGRPAHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF NORTH AMERICAN KANGAROO REPORTS.

It should be noted that certain areas where kangaroos were reported have not been shown on this map due to their proximity to other locales that also produced kangaroo reports. For example, Evanston, Illinois has not been shown on the map due to the city's proximity to Chicago, a major center of kangaroo activity.

"Let's have it, then. Who was Jack the Ripper? What did happen on the Marie Celeste? Am I a schmuck to believe in flying saucers?"


THE GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF NORTH AMERICAN MYSTERY KANGARO
REPORTS.
D FIDELER '77 W/APPOLOGIES
TO GAHAN WILSON . . .

CLOSE-UP: *Winged Creat*

BY DAVID FIDELER

1977 has been an unusually good year for all categories of creature reports, "Big Birds" included. The Lima, Ohio News of May 18, 1977 carried a report of a "Big Bird" attacking a five-pound puppy. (CR: Mark Hall) On May 17, presumably, a beagle belonging to Mrs. Greg Schmitt of Rabbit Hash, Kentucky was "snatched from her farm and dropped in a pond 600 yards away." Mrs. Schmitt didn't witness the incident, but a 7-year-old neighbor boy did, who said that a large bird took the animal skyward. Meanwhile, local wildlife officials were trying to decide if the dog was attacked by an American Bald Eagle. While there is no way to decide whether or not this was a "normal event," acceptable within our present confines of reality, the report at least did serve as a taste of things to come...

On July 25, 1977 a bizarre attack occured which is probably the most dramatic big bird report to date. At 8:10 p.m., 10-year-old Marlon Lowe was playing hide and seek outside his Lawndale, Illinois home when the incredible happened: he was picked up off the ground by a huge bird and carried over a distance of 30 feet. The case received quite a bit of media attention, and we are happy to publish the first hand observations of Jerry Coleman (reproduced below) who interviewed the Lowes...

NOTES ON THE ILLINOIS BIG BIRD

by Jerry Coleman

I spoke with Ruth Lowe and Marlon Lowe. Mrs. Lowe is self employed, along with her husband, Jake. They own and operate a Standard station in Lincoln, Ill. She is a grandmother of about forty-five years of age. She, in my opinion, is a very honest woman, and stated if I didn't believe her she didn't even want to talk about it. People from all over the country have called her. The Logan County Game Warden sat at her table and called her a liar. All in all, she felt people laughing at her for what she had seen.

Three officers of the Lincoln (or State) police went down to Kickapoo Creek, and walked around the open bank of the creek for less than fifteen minutes, and found nothing. There were no feathers or anything to be found in her yard. I also went across the street to an empty lot, and found nothing. This location was where the birds allegedly were starting up.

A Mr. Cox of Lawndale was the first to see the birds, coming out of the southwest. He saw them as they started their descent, seeing nothing more.

Marlon states that he was playing a game of hide and go seek, and was running at the time the bird picked him up. The bird, along with another one, was flying at a height of eight feet from the ground. They were side by side, wingtip to wingtip. Marlon was carried a distance of thirty five feet. The weight of the boy is around sixty pounds; he is almost four feet tall, and has red hair. This happened at 8:10 p.m., Monday, July 25, 1977. It was comfortable, warm, with clear skies; sunset at 8:15 p.m.

Ruth Lowe describes the birds as having a white ring around the neck, which was one and a half feet long. The rest of the body was all very black. The birds' bill were six inches long, and hooked at the end like so:

The claws on the feet were arranged with three front, one in back:

Each wing, less the body, was four feet at the very least. Although they did not land, the birds on the ground would have stood four and a half feet tall.

Creature Reports of 1977

When Mrs. Lowe screamed, the boy was released and fell to the ground. At this point, she was within ten feet of the birds. All (there were six witnesses) watched the birds fly off to the northeast. One flap of the wings, and the birds went up. The leveled off at tree top height, and flew northeast toward Kickapoo Creek, which is less than a mile from their house. When they last saw the birds, about nine blocks away, she said they still looked the size of ducks.

Lawndale is a very small town, less than 300 people. The biggest town nearby is Lincoln (pop. 17,000), about ten miles to the southwest. North and northwest of Lawndale is Kickapoo Creek, an area very heavy with underbrush and trees for miles.

By the way, in the front yard where Mrs. Lowe was standing when she screamed, was her Saint Bernard about 20 feet away. The dog never barked. She said the dog barks at everything, all the time.

(END OF REPORT)

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Jerry Coleman is the brother of Loren Coleman, the well known Fortean author. We would like to thank both Jerry and Loren for making this report available.)

After the widely publicized Lawndale incident, another report gained media attention. On Saturday July 30th, "Texas John" Huffer saw two "big birds" roosting in a large dead tree. Huffer reported that the birds left droppings the size of baseballs. (!) Even more interesting was the fact that he filmed the larger bird as it flew from tree to tree.

Huffer, a writer for Bass magazine, a fishing guide, and construction worker, shot 100 feet of film of the bird. WCIA-Television, in Champaign, Illinois, aired part of the film during their evening newscast.

He reported that the head of the larger bird appeared to be about 18 inches high. The bird had a huge body and a wingspan of about 12 feet.

Huffer was fishing in an isolated bay Saturday morning with his son when they spotted the birds. The pair sounded the boat's horn upon spotting the creatures, causing both birds to leave the tree. The Huffers followed the larger bird by boat -- shooting film -- as it flew from tree to tree. This may be the most evidential big bird sighting ever, and we are waiting for further developments. There is an effort underway to obtain a copy of the film, and we shall publish additional information as it becomes available.

Perhaps it should be noted that there are not any birds in North America -- or the world for that matter -- that can lift a 60-pound boy. Nor are there any birds in the vicinity of Illinois with an 8 to 12 foot wingspan. We are apparently dealing with a Fortean phenomenon; a type of mystery animal which has been encountered down through the years. Those readers interested in researching this subject may find the following sources to be useful:

CLARK, JEROME. Unidentified Flapping Objects, Oui, October 1976.
CLARK, JEROME and COLEMAN, LOREN. Winged Weirdies, Fate, March 1972.
KEEL, JOHN. West Virginia's Enigmatic 'Bird,' FSR, 14, 4.
KEEL, JOHN. Strange Creatures from Time and Space, Fawcett 1970.
KEEL, JOHN. The Mothman Prophecies, Saturday Review Press 1975.
RICKARD, ROBERT. Birdmen of the Apocalypse, Fortean Times 17.
WATSON, NIGEL. Winged Creatures and Other Weird Beings, MUFOB, n.s. 4.

And while that concludes ARB's mini-Big-Bird-Bibliography, we have a few more facts to record on the sociology of the Illinois Big Bird events below...

Suddenly after the two big bird incidents started to gain recognition in the press, the Authorities moved in issuing their usual infallible Explanations and Statements. It was a classic Fortean scenario: something impossible had happened and the authorities had a most difficult time coping with the situation. When unexpectedly confronted like this, The Experts will resort to their old, boring, and unconvincing tactics of questioning the integrity of the witnesses, ignoring the reports altogether, or maybe labelling the reports hoaxes. And then there's always the old fallacy that closeminded people often resort to, the line of "reasoning" that: IT'T CAN'T EXIST, THEREFORE IT DOESN'T.

Immediately--without interviewing the witnesses or reviewing the cases--ornithologists and naturalists decided that certain unqualified people must be mistaking turkey vultures for monster birds from a cheap science fiction flick. And even if people were seeing turkey vultures they had to be a little on the looney side--there isn't a turkey vulture in the world that can lift a 60 pound boy off the ground! Of course, baseball-sized bird crap was out; one naturalist was very quick to point out that turkey vulture excrement resembles "a whitewash matter." Hmmmm.

John Peldyak, a Fortean who lives in Alton, Illinois, forwarded a news report in which various experts "explained away" the bird encounters. He was also careful to enclose a note with the clipping. It read:

"Take THAT, you funny Forteans. Leave it to the 'experts' to send your Big Birds scurrying for cover ...Put this in your file of expert explanations which defy logic."

And so we will.

(I would like to thank Jerry and Loren Coleman, John Peldyak, and Tom Adams for the information they forwarded concerning the bird sightings. Since I wrote the above, there has been additional bird activity in Illinois, and future issues of ARB will carry the reports. A special thanks goes to Beth Weldon, who first brought the incidents to my attention, and who illustrated this issue's remarkable cover. If you didn't get credit this time, you will next time around. Sources for this report include: Decatur, Illinois Herald, July 28 & 29; Boston, Mass. Evening Globe, July 28; Needham, Mass. Daily Transcript, July 28; and the South Middlesex News, July 28, 1977. More next time.)

MUTILATIONS

A MUTILATED KITTEN IN NEW JERSEY.

An investigative report by Dr. C. Louis Wiedemann.

In the Summer of 1977, just at the time Vestigia was investigating the deaths and apparent abductions of various pet rabbits in New Jersey (seemingly connected with alleged Bigfoot incidents), Vestigia president Bob Jones received a call from a member. Jean Christman, the Vestigian who called, lives in an area of northwestern New Jersey which is believed to be a Bigfoot pass-through area. We have reason to suspect that the creatures often pass near or through her rural property on nightly sojourns from the top of the Kitantinny Ridge to a low-lying swamp, and back again. Several "mini expiditions" to her area have failed to turn up conclusive evidence, but the circumstantial evidence is very strong. At any rate, Jean's story was this:

One morning she awoke and discovered one-half of a dead kitten on her basement floor; it was the front half of the animal -- the torso, forelegs, and head. This cat was one of a litter which had been recently born to Jean's cat, and the litter and their mother lived outside the house. The same morning she discovered that some hamburger buns which had been left outside after an evening barbecue were missing. Jean speculated that Bigfoot or some other creature might have bitten the cat in two, eaten the rear half, and left the front part,

whereupon the mother cat had dragged the half-kitten into the house (certainly not a normal act for a cat).

Bob had the half-kitten autopsied by Dr. Donald Shatto, a veternarian in Hackettstown, New Jersey who had previously performed autopsies on the mutilated rabbits from another Sussex County location. Upon examining the animal, Don was absolutely amazed because, rather than the jagged and bruised wound edges which he expected to find, he discovered that the kitten had been neatly incised, as if with a surgical instrument. In providing a verbal report of the autopsy, here is what he told me:

"The edge of the wound shows absolutely no bruising, and this is very hard to explain since wounds invariably show a great deal of bruising of tissue at the edges. Further, and equally surprising, there was no blood whatever on the skin or fur around the incision. Even if this cat had been cut in two by being run over by a lawnmower, one would expect to find bruising of the wound edges.

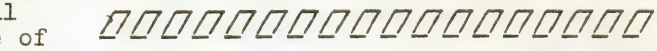
"The incision was at about the level of the diaphragm; the liver was absent, but the heart was intact. It is certainly puzzling."

When asked how he might set about to duplicate this incision on another cat, Dr. Shatto replied: "I would find it next to impossible to duplicate this. Perhaps is the cat were killed by some other means first, and then carefully laid out on a table and chopped in half with a surgically sharp cleaver, the effect might be similar However, I still find it hard to understand how this could be performed without at least some bruising, and bleeding onto the fur and skin."

These findings, plus the fact that the rear half of the animal was never found, coupled with the fact that the kitten's half-body was found inside the house, combine to make this a most puzzling mutilation. One is immediately reminded, of course, of the numerous large-animal mutilations, many of which are said to have been performed with "surgical precision," which have been reported for several years throughout the country. Some of these have been tied in, at least speculatively, with nearby sightings of Bigfoot-type creatures and UFOs. Here in New Jersey this incident happened right in the heart of the area which we have come to call "Bigfoot Country." Moreover, it occurred precisely at the time when we had several other apparently Bigfoot-related small animal mutilations and abductions. (The word "abductions" is used advisedly, for we do not know whether the animals were kidnapped or eaten on the spot.) Details of the more interesting cases appears in the Summer issue of the Vestigia Newsletter, and it is well worth reading, for it tells of repeated close encounters with a Bigfoot-type creature which reportedly broke into a building where it killed and mutilated numerous rabbits in a surprising fashion, after which it was shot at close range without exhibiting any injury! The autopsy report supplied by Dr. Shatto is most fascinating.

No definite conclusions have been drawn from the puzzling kitten "mute." One is tempted to speculate that a Keelean or Clarkian phenomenon is at work here, but we prefer not to jump to any conclusions on the basis of one rather isolated incident which might, in fact, have a natural explanation which merely escapes us at the moment. Readers are requested to comment on this incident, in the hope that some light might be shed on it. (EDITOR'S NOTE: Readers of ARB who are interested in learning more about Vestigia, and in reading their newsletter, are advised to contact Vestigia at R.D. 2, Brookwood Road, Stanhope, New Jersey, 07074. We are told that subscriptions to the newsletter are unavailable; Vestigia is a member-participation organization, and membership costs $10 a year -- $5 for associate membership for persons under age 18. The Vestigia Newsletter is published several times yearly.)

Future issues of ARB will carry additional information on animal mutilations and related topics.



REPORT ON THE ACAPULCO UFO CON

by RICHARD HEIDEN

The "First International UFO Congress" was held in Acapulco, Mexico, April 18-23, run by Guillermo Bravo of the Mexico City CIIFOP group. The congress drew a number of the big names in the UFO field, but many advertized speakers were not there. I heard from two reliable sources that one of them, at any rate, was never actually invited. A Mexico City newspaper reported that, whether there are any UFOs or not, the congress was a fraud. Unfortunately, there was a certain amount of truth to this statement, with several crackpots on the program. The congress further suffered from a lack of organization. Even so, it was a worthwhile event, with the UFOlogists who did show up, but the congress fell far short of what it could have been - or even what it should have been.

The speakers whose names might be known to English-speaking UFOlogists were as follows: Walter Andrus, Prime Minister Eric M. Gairy of Grenada, Salvador Freixedo, Dennis Hauck, J. Allen Hynek, John Keel, Jim Lorenzen, Henry McKay, Hans Peterson, Antonio Ribera, William Spaulding, Ray Stanford, Jacques Vallee, Karl Veit, Erich VonDaniken, and Colman VonKevickzy. In short, a disparate collection of UFOlogists and pseudo-UFOlogists.

By the large, the lectures were predictable, but nevertheless interesting and informative. Andrus reported on the National Enquirer winners (including the San Antonio balloon hoax which won in 1975), Prime Minister Gairy repeated his United Nations address of last October, Lorenzen spoke about the Walton and Moody cases, McKay about research in Canada, Stanford about Project Starlight International (and a previously unpublicized San Antonio trace case), etc. Von Daniken made this statement, which indicated a change in his attitude toward UFOs: "I firmly believe UFOs do exist, but I have never seen one myself."

Thursday afternoon Jim Lorenzen and Bill Spaulding debated the Travis Walton case. Nothing new to this writer was brought out, and in fact the debate was pretty dull, as Spaulding, lacking any evidence to back up his contention that the case was a hoax, was unable to put up a fight.

Unfortunately, there was no time for questions from the audience. This was originally scheduled for Saturday (even though several speakers were gone by then), but had to be cancelled due to lack of time. Some of the lectures exceeded their allotted time, which, coupled with consistently late starts, lengthy breaks, and time for questions from other speakers, kept the program running behind schedule. (On Thursday there was no break to eat until 5:00 p.m., when the interpreters finally called it quits.)

So the congress was purely a spectator event as far as the audience was concerned. The only time to interact with the speakers was, of neccessity, outside the congress itself. Nevertheless, this informal conversation was (for me, at any rate) often more enjoyable than the formal lectures.

The Mexico City News reported a paid registration of only 200, though the Mexico City Excelsior reported 400 people at the Wednesday morning session. In any case, the attendance was much less than the several thousand hoped for. Why the conference was held in Acapulco, rather than in Mexico City, the center of UFO interest in Mexico, is a mystery. The News added that, out of the total $76,000 cost, there was a deficit of $45,000. There was a persistent rumor that the Mexico government was bailing out the congress. (Personally, I hope that somebody does, because I am still due a refund for my payment to Dennis Hauck at the New York office of the congress. Flight information was to be given after payment of the registration, and it was only then that I learned that, in order to qualify for the much cheaper charter flight, the registration and hotel also had to be

obtained through the travel agency, as a package deal.)

Prime Minister Gairy invited UFOlogists to Grenada for the "Second International UFO Congress" within two years. So, after a number of "First International UFO Congresses" (or conferences), there will finally be a second one. Let's hope that the "Second International UFO Congress," wherever it is held, comes off better than the one in Acapulco.

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(probably because I had a sneaky suspicion the light wouldn't show up). Nevertheless, the weekend was indeed highly worthwhile.

I arrived at Lou's spacious pad tucked nicely in the New Jersey mountains south of Hackettstown on the afternoon of June 11 (Saturday). Arrival time was at about 3:30 p.m. For the next pair of hours Lou and I discussed Fortean phenomena, until around 5:30 p.m. when we drove to the spook light site where the members of Vestigia were rigging their elaborate electronic gear in readiment for the night's experiment.

This assortment of nuts and bolts hardware consisted of roughly $40,000 worth of gadgetry the likes of which would make a UFOnaut quake in miscomprehension. In addition to geiger counters, still and motion picture cameras, and tape recorders, there was also an elaborate radio communications system, a seismograph, infrared and ultra-violet light detectors, not to mention a neat little rail trolley designed especially for the project by engineer Bill Wagner and his team of co-workers. The bulk of the hardware was housed inside a tractor-trailer parked by railside. This, of course, only touches on the equipment utilized by the Vestigians.

Lou gave me what amounted to a "grand tour" of the project site after our initial arrival between 5:30 and 6 p.m. We then drove back to his home where a splendid dinner had been readied by Jackie, Lou's wife (this on their wedding anniversary I might add). Friends of thw Wiedemanns were also present during dinner, and the conversation went from Forteana, to writing in general, to science fiction films. In fact, the time passed so quickly and easily that I nearly didn't get it together for a drive back to the spook light site.

Nevertheless, I did return to the Vestigian camp at about 10:15 p.m., only to find that I'd missed nothing. The light was playing hard-to-get, quite obviously.

The next two hours were spent roaming from the inside of the tractor-trailer (Post 2) control center, to the railroad tracks behind the post, and occasional short walks down the dark tracks themselves. By 12:30 we were all getting a mite anxious, and several times I overheard various people wonder aloud if the light would ever show that night. (Most of the sightings reported to Vestigia, in addition to their own previous experience, seem to place the light manifestation at around 10 p.m.)

Before I go any further with this letter, I'd better explain the rest of the watch set-up. I already mentioned Post 2. In addition to the tractor-trailer there was Post 1, in one direction down the track at a distance of roughly 350 yards. Also, there was Post 3, about 1,000 yards in the opposite direction. Each post was manned by two persons with cameras and equipment ready. The trolley was mounted on the rail immediately behind the control center, and could be triggered to run in either direction at a moment's notice.

Then, at about 1:20 a.m., something happened: first a small object mounted on the trolley began to spark with a bluish light, like an instrument short-circuiting. In fact, that is exactly what I thought it was (I was the first to notice this, interestingly enough). I pointed out the sparking to a fellow standing next to me - his name was Joe - and he radioed Bill Wagner inside the control van. Simultaneously, a man down the track monitoring a geiger counter began shouting that he was getting very high radiation readings; nothing lethal mind you, but relatively high nonetheless. The readings, I later discover-

ed, had gone from a "normal" background count of 20 to 30 counts per minute (cpm) to a reading of 65-70 cpm. Meanwhile the sparking object was growning more intense until suddenly a small strobe light triggered on the trolley, sending out regular bright pulses of light.

Bill then came over the radio, telling Joe next to me that the object we saw sparking was the ultra-violet detector. The instrument had registered something in the UV spectrum that wasn't visible to the human eye, and that something was growing stronger. This effect, coupled with the high radiation, had triggered the strobe light.

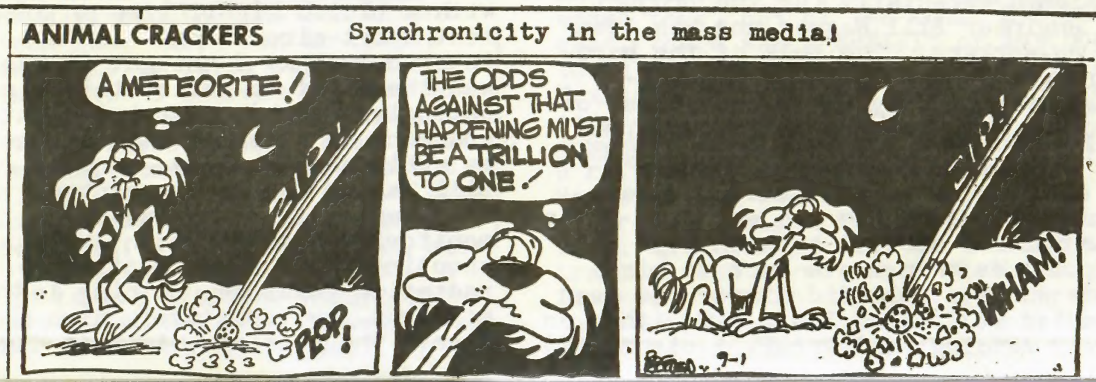
For something over 60 seconds the high readings persisted while the Vestigian team started the motion picture cameras on the trolley and prepared the trolley itself to run, should the ghost light suddenly become visible. While it wasn't said in direct fashion, the general assumption was that the high radiation and UV readings indicated the proximity of tne ghost light itself - or at least whatever energy the light consists of. Unfortunately, after that brief interval of excitement, the radiation suddenly decreased to normal and the UV detector stopped registering.

The phenomenon had gone.

Throughout the remainder of the night the geiger counter continued to give high, although sporatic, readings. None of these, however, approached the high count received when the UV detector went wild. In one of my notebooks I took down the times of these various readings, but I'll not bore you with such details.

At dawn (about 5:30 a.m.) we began clearing up the gear. Soon thereafter men from Posts 1 and 3 staggered in, having had a hard night on the line (literally). There were periods when various persons insisted they saw the light, or at least a light; I, however, never saw any of these to be perfectly honest. But maybe I'm not as "psychic" as some.

Of course, this doesn't excuse the fact that the instruments registered some form of energy, whatever it may have been. Tom Bearden, a Huntsville, Alabama nuclear engineer, has suggested that perhaps UFOs, ghost lights, and a host of other Fortean phenomena are actually manifestations that "orthorotate" into our reality frame from alternate frames; that these "things" are but creations of the collective unconscious made temporarily real - real in a transitional sense. His belief is outwardly no different than the beliefs of such people as Allen Greenfield, Gene Steinberg, Keel, etc., except that Tom has utilized the framework of quantum physics to make sense of it all. He calls these objects "tulpas" and the study and manipulation of reality "psychotronics." The reality frames, he says, are infinite in number and anything that exists in them is as real (or surreal) as thought, although having density in their own home frames-of-reference. We cannot perceive them, of course, until they are "drawn" into our own reality frame. But the really scary thing is that our own frame, according to Bearden's reasoning, is no more (or less) real than any of these "shadow" realities. In fact, the entire cosmos is somewhat akin to a giant



holograph - a picture projected for the embodiment of the thought-forms within it.

Hence, we can have anything and everything popping in and out of the multiple reality frames, with no limitations whatsoever. UFOs, creatures, ghost lights, skyfalls, mutilations - shoot from the hip, it's all there. This of course is a simplified explanation. I'm not an authority on quantum physics as is Tom, so I tend to generalize too much. Still, you get the picture . . .

Best, Curt (Curtis K. Sutherly.)

*

Dear Dave,

As you know, Adamskian Charlotte Blob, formerly of your state of Michigan, has come to Wisconsin. She heads the UFO Education Center here. Blob and her crew make public appearances throughout the state (lectures, radio, and TV), and have had at least three wire service articles in the past couple of years, not counting numerous local stories which promote their hero, St. George the UFO prophet.

Naturally, the Adamskians try to tone down some of Adamski's more absurd claims, in their attempt to recruit followers. One follower who went so far as to move into the UFO Education Center's headquarters was forcibly removed last October by her family and friends, some of whom thought the outfit was connected with the Rev. Sun Myung Moon and his "Moonies." "Deprogramming" was attempted by phone, but she soon returned, and is still there, and has cut off all communication with her family. Although she kissed her father goodbye when she returned to the UFO Education Center after the abduction, and said that everything would be OK, the young lady tried to press charges against several of the people involved (including her father and brothers), but the judge dismissed them. Her parents are now trying to get a conservatorship, in order to have 30 days in which to use the services of a psychiatrist or deprogrammer on her.

Recent court decisions have gone against the parents of Moonies, but the UFO Education Center does not claim to be a religious sect, which might make a difference in this case. However, the parents will need the court testimoney of a former Adamski cultist to help them obtain the conservatorship. Does any of your readers know such a person? Or maybe one of your readers is such a person. If so, please send me name, address, and phone number and I will pass the information on to the parents.

Len Stringfield's first book talks about a man who attempted to take Adamski to court for selling his fraudulent books, but the case had to be dropped because of the lack of cooperation from "a certain top agency in Washington" (perhaps Adamski was helping implement a policy to keep people from taking UFOs seriously). Although Adamski has been dead for 12 years now, it is just possible that his claims will finally be aired in court.

If there is sufficient interest, I will provide more details on the situation with the UFO Education Center to the readers of ARB, and keep them posted on the latest developments.

Ufologically yours, Rich (Richard W. Heiden, 6901 W. Fiebrantz Ave., Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53216.)

Cont. from p. 2...

ported activity, and so on. But I need feedback on this; all comments will be given careful consideration.

Some may notice that this issue was typed with two different machines. Alas, our trusty typer exploded and we were forced to use a more dated model. Others may notice that, in order to accomodate the cover illustration, we couldn't use the new ARB logo. Oh well--one of our favorite Erisian proverbs states that "Consistency is the hobgobgoblin of small minds." Furthermore, we are sure that somewhere Charlie is smiling.

In order to increase the page count of ARB (something that must really be done), the number of subscfibers must increase, rather than raising the prices. If you think that ARB is a worthwhile publication mention it to a friend: your reccommendation is our best form of advertizement.

ARB

Anomaly Research Bulletin

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. . . AND MORE

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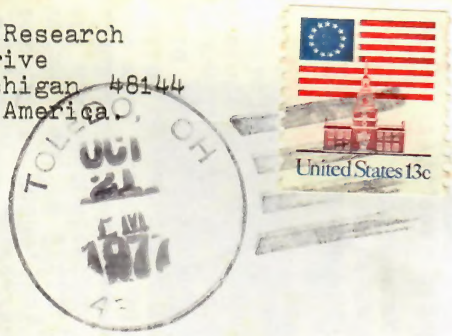

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